Recently FMWRC conducted an exploratory study using data from the *Survey of Army Families IV* to try and shed light on whether ethnicity has an effect on how Soldiers and their families cope with the daily challenges of living the validity of that assumption.

The study, based on three stepwise regressions indicated there were three common predictors linked to spouses coping. Not surprisingly, these included: 1) the higher the number of problems experienced the lower the spouse's daily functioning, 2) the more the spouse keep him/herself informed about the Army, the better the daily coping, and 3) the greater the demands the Army places on the families, the lower their daily coping score.

At a more refined level of analysis the study also identified seven ethnically-specific predictors of coping positively with the demands of Army life:

For African American spouses their belief that their Soldier can have a secure and stable career in the military and their belief that their Soldier's Army career will make a positive contribution to society makes it easier for them to cope.

For Hispanic spouses, predicators of positive coping tended to be associated more with family and close friend supports.

For the Caucasians, the predictors tended to reflect opportunities to advance their personal goals, the Soldier's career goals, and being informed about the Army.

A detailed, published account of the study is available.